TOMANDO FORMA
THE WALKING DEAD
188
KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN
AT-ZOMBIEFACTORY
AT CÓMICS

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTA

THE WALKING DEAD™

188: TOMANDO FORMA

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DISEÑO DE PRODUCCIÓN POR **ANDRES JUAREZ** PRODUCCIÓN POR **CARINA TAYLOR**

ANTERIORMENTE:

Tras la muerte de Dwight, Rick es aclamado como héroe por la Gobernadora Milton... pero él no se siente como tal. Se reconcilia con Michonne, aún con la esperanza de poner a la Mancomunidad en el camino de la paz y el progreso continuado. Princesa presiente que las cosas están a punto de ponerse mal y decide irse, mientras en el este Magna y Maggie envían a la Mancomunidad un grupo que incluye a Carl. Mientras tanto, Laura y Mercer entablan una alianza, pero cuando Mercer intenta reclutar a sus compañeros guardias para llevar a cabo un golpe de estado, su conspiración es descubierta por Lance.

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ELLA VA A ESTAR MUCHO MÁS QUE DECEPCIONADA PARA CUANDO HAYA ACABADO.
MIRA A TU ALREDEDOR, MERCER. YA HAS ACABADO.
YO NO ESTOY TAN SEGURO.
¿GEORGE?
UM...
¡¿GEORGE?!
SERÍA UNA PELEA DIVERTIDA DE VER, PERO--
SÍ, RENDIRSE ES LA ELECCIÓN MÁS SABIA, VIEJO AMIGO.

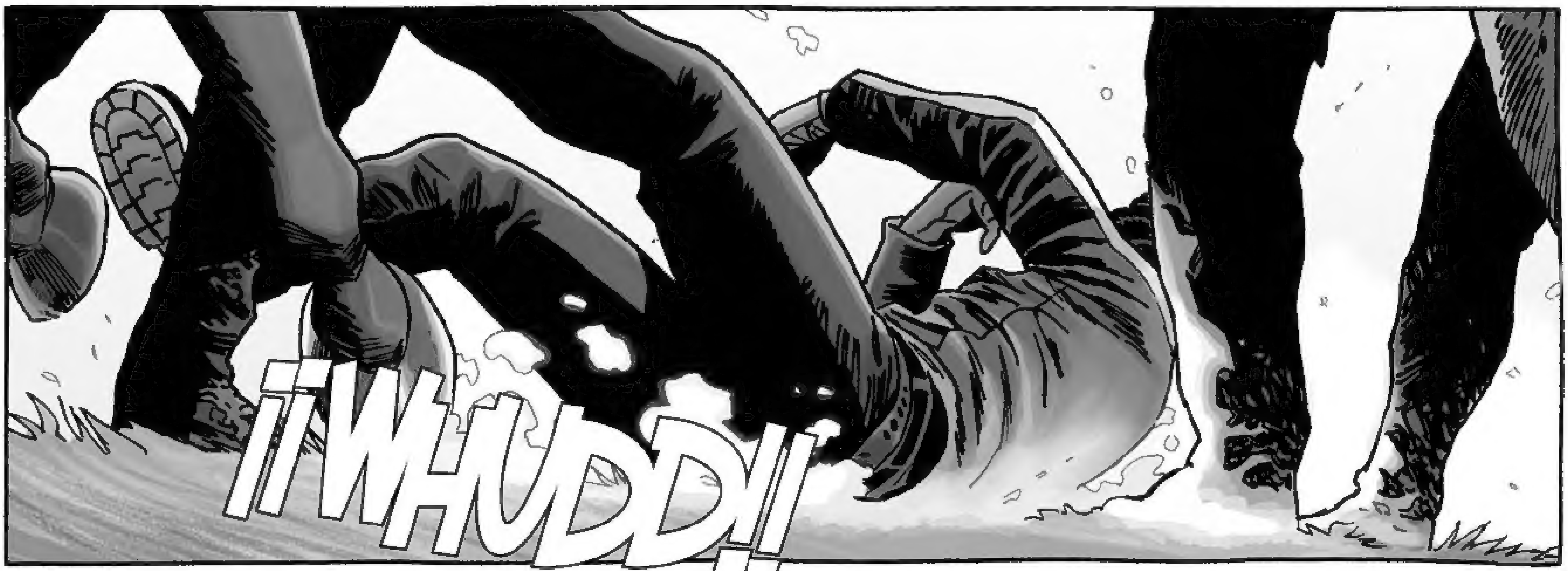
ES SÓLO QUE ESTOY PREOCUPADA... NO ME LO QUITO DE LA CABEZA.
SI ESTÁS TAN PREOCUPADA, ¿POR QUÉ NO FUISTE CON ELLOS?
NO PODÍA DEJAR A ESTE PEQUEÑAJO TANTO TIEMPO.
ADEMÁS, AÚN HAY MUCHO QUE HACER.
OH, ¿CREES QUE NO PUEDO MANEJAR A ESTE TRAVIESILLO YO SOLA?

NO ES QUE NO CREA QUE ESTÁS CUALIFICADA, BRIANNA. NO QUIERO ESTAR LEJOS DE HERSHEL TANTO TIEMPO... PODRÍAN ESTAR FUERA DURANTE UN MES.
EXACTO.
ASÍ QUE EN LUGAR DE ESTAR EN UN SIN VIVIR TODO ESE TIEMPO-- RELÁJATE Y CONFÍA EN QUE ESOS CHICOS PUEDEN ENCARGARSE DE LA TAREA QUE LES ENVIASTE A HACER.
PESADA ES LA CORONA...
CUANDO ELLA NO CONFÍA EN SU GENTE.
NO ME FÍO DE ESA ZORRA SONRIENTE DE LA MANCOMUNIDAD. ES EN ELLA EN QUIEN NO CONFÍO.
UGH... ¿ESTOY PERDIENDO EL TIEMPO AL MANDARLES A UNA MISIÓN DE EXPLORA-CIÓN?
¿DEBERÍA ESTAR REUNIENDO A TODA NUESTRA GENTE Y MARCHAR CON UN EJÉRCITO HACIA LA MANCOMUNIDAD AHORA MISMO?
NO LO SÉ... PERO SÉ QUE SI SIENTES QUE DEBERÍAS HACERLO...
EN-TONCES DEBERÍAS HACERLO.
...

¿ESO ES LO QUE CREO QUE ES?
CREO QUE SÍ.
¡¿PRINCESA?!
¡¿QUÉ ESTÁS HACIENDO AQUÍ FUERA?!

¡¿PERO QUÉ--?!
¡TRAS ELLA!

¡WHUMPP!
¡AAAAGH!


¡WHUDD!!

¡MIER-DA!
¡MIER-DA!
¡KRAK!
¡OH, MIER-DA!
¡¿QUÉ HACE-MOS?!
¡YO ME ENCAR-GO!

¡WHOOM!
¡OH, DIOS!
¡OH, DIOS!
¡CARL!
¡SALTA!
¡OFF!
¡WHUMP!

SÁLVENSE USTEDES--
¡VÁYANSE!
¡SVAASH!
¡Y UNA MIERDA!
¡O ESCAPAMOS JUNTOS O NO LO HACEMOS!
MUY BIEN.
SIGAN ADELANTE--
¡LES ALCANZAREMOS!
DIOS--¡HAY MUCHOS!
DEPRISA--TENEMOS QUE--
¡OH, MIERDA!

¡SVAASH!
¡NO VAMOS A PODER SOBREPASARLOS A TODOS A PIE!
¡WHUMP!
¡WHUDD!
TENGO UN SITIO DONDE ESCONDERNOS--
¡SÍGANME!

¿A DÓNDE?
TENGO UN ESCONDITE-- ¡PERO NO PARA CABALLOS!
ADELÁNTENSE Y ENCUENTREN UN BUEN SITIO DONDE ESPERAR JUNTO AL CAMINO--LES ALCANZAREMOS.
¡VÁYANSE!
HAGAN ESA COSA QUE HACE TU GENTE DONDE CABALGAN EN SUS CABALLOS Y ALEJAN A LOS MUERTOS.
YA SABEN DE LO QUE HABLO-- ¡ES IMPRESIONANTE!
DENSE PRISA--¡ANTES DE QUE NOS VEAN!

ESTOY TAN DECEPCIONADA CONTIGO.
DESPUÉS DE TODO LO QUE HEMOS HECHO POR TI, ACOGIÉNDOTE, PONIÉNDOTE EN UNA POSICIÓN DE PODER, NO PUEDO CREER QUE TE HAYAS VUELTO CONTRA NOSOTROS.
CONFIÁBAMOS EN TI, MERCER.
¿DÓNDE ESTÁ TU SENTIDO DE LA LEALTAD?
¿HAS DICHO LEALTAD?
¿DÓNDE ESTÁ TU PUTO SENTIDO DE LA LEALTAD?
PARA TI NUNCA FUI MÁS QUE UN GLORIFICADO CHICO DE LOS RECADOS. ERA UNA NIÑERA. ERA UN CHÓFER. ERA TU CHIVO EXPIATORIO.
ME PUSISTE EN PELIGRO MÁS VECES DE LAS QUE PUEDO RECORDAR, Y TODAS LAS VECES QUE CASI MORÍ POR TI NUNCA PARECIÓ IMPORTARTE UNA MIERDA.
TÚ NO ERES UNA LÍDER, ERES UNA JODIDA ASPIRANTE A REINA, Y NO VOY A QUEDARME SENTADO A ESPERAR A QUE INTENTES INSTAURAR AL DESCEREBRADO DE MIERDA DE TU HIJO COMO TU SUCESOR.
BUENO...
PARECE QUE ESTÁS JUSTO EN EL LUGAR AL QUE PERTENECES.

¿QUÉ PASA? ¿NO PUEDES ENCONTRAR LA LLAVE INGLESA?
NO, UM, ES PEOR QUE ESO.
LA SITUACIÓN EN LA MANCOMUNIDAD HA DADO UN GIRO. NOS HAN ORDENADO VOLVER. ESTE PROGRAMA SE SUSPENDE.
¿SE SUSPENDE? ¿QUÉ QUIERES DECIR CON QUE SE SUSPENDE?
ESTE PROYECTO ES IMPORTANTE. ¿ESTÁS DICIENDO QUE NO SE NOS PERMITE SEGUIR TRABAJANDO?
MIRA, AMIGO, NO LO SÉ. NO ME HAN DADO ÓRDENES DE ARRESTARTE NI NADA PARECIDO. TODO LO QUE SÉ ES QUE MERCER ESTÁ EN LA CÁRCEL Y LAS TENSIONES HAN AUMENTADO, Y LA GOBERNADORA MILTON QUIERE QUE TODO EL MUNDO SE REAGRUPE EN LA CIUDAD.
ASÍ QUE LO QUE SEA QUE ESTÉN HACIENDO AQUÍ YA NO ES UNA PRIORIDAD. NO PODEMOS QUEDARNOS AQUÍ PARA PROTEGERLES. TENEMOS QUE IRNOS.
A VER, TÉCNICAMENTE, SI ES TAN IMPORTANTE PARA USTEDES, PODRÍAN QUEDARSE, PERO NO TENDRÍAN A NADIE AQUÍ PROTEGIÉNDOLES.
NO ESTÁS CONSIDERANDO ESTO...
¿VERDAD?

BUENO, TAN SÓLO IRRUMPE DIRECTAMENTE, ¿POR QUÉ NO?
ESTO ES SERIO.
¿QUÉ HA PASADO?
¿CÓMO DE SERIO?
PAMELA ACABA DE METER A MERCER EN LA CÁRCEL.
OH, DIOS...
OH, DIOS ES LO ACERTADO.
NO, NO LO ENTIENDES. LA GENTE YA ESTÁ A PUNTO DE REVELARSE. NO CONFÍAN EN LOS GUARDIAS-- PERO LES GUSTABA MERCER. AHORA QUE LOS GUARDIAS SE HAN VUELTO CONTRA ÉL... ESTO ES MUY, MUY MALO.
ELODIE ME DIJO QUE LA GENTE YA HA EMPEZADO A ELEGIR BANDOS... LOS QUE APOYAN A LA GOBERNADORA Y LOS QUE NO.
PODRÍAMOS ESTAR EN EL UMBRAL DE UNA INMINENTE GUERRA CIVIL DENTRO DE LA MANCOMUNIDAD.

NO, NO, NO... TENEMOS QUE DETENER ESTO.
ESTO ES LO QUE DWIGHT QUERÍA. HACIA LO QUE DIRIGÍA SUS ESFUERZOS...
LO QUE HICE... LO HICE PARA DETENER ESTO.
SI SUCEDE DE TODOS MODOS...
¿QUÉ HE HECHO?
DWIGHT ESTABA INCITANDO AL PUEBLO-- PERO SU ODIO POR LA GOBERNADORA MILTON Y SU GENTE... SE HA ESTADO DESARROLLANDO DURANTE AÑOS.
DWIGHT SÓLO LO ESTABA ALENTANDO-- AVIVABA UN FUEGO QUE YA ESTABA ARDIENDO.
YO QUIERO EVITAR ESTO TANTO COMO TÚ... PERO ME TEMO QUE ES SÓLO CUESTIÓN DE TIEMPO.
NO. SOMOS UN CATALIZADOR. VINIMOS Y LAS COSAS EMPEORARON. PUEDE QUE HUBIERA UN RESENTIMIENTO GESTÁNDOSE, PERO ES NUESTRA PRESENCIA LO QUE ESTÁ ALENTÁNDOLO TODO.
NO HABÍA ALTERNATIVA HASTA QUE APARECIMOS NOSOTROS. ESO ES LO QUE OCURRE... ESO ES LO QUE ESTÁ ACELERÁNDOLO TODO.
NO PUEDO PERMITIR QUE SEAMOS NOSOTROS LOS QUE HAGAMOS TRIZAS LA MANCOMUNIDAD. PERO SIN DWIGHT... ¿CÓMO ESTÁ PASANDO ESTO TAN RÁPIDO?
¿QUIÉN PODRÍA...?
UN MOMENTO.
¿DÓNDE ESTÁ LAURA?

PERO MERCER, COLEGA... JODER, NO PUEDO CREERLO.
LO SÉ, ¿VERDAD?
VENGA, GEORGE, SÉ SINCERO CONMIGO...
SÓLO ESTAMOS ESPERANDO EL MOMENTO, ¿VERDAD? VAMOS A LIBERAR A MERCER Y VAMOS A DIRIGIR ESTA MIERDA.
HARÍAS BIEN MANTENIENDO TU BOCA *CERRADA*.
¿DE QUÉ IBA TODO ESO?
NADA. LES VEO MAÑANA, CHICOS.
¿QUIÉN COÑO ERES TÚ?
SOY UNA AMIGA DE MERCER.
¿TÚ LO ERES?

ESTÁN EMPEZANDO A DISPERSARSE. DEBERÍA ESTAR DESPEJADO EN MENOS DE UNA HORA.
AARON Y LOS OTROS DEBEN HABERLOS ALEJADO. ESTO ES BUENO. SÓLO UN PEQUEÑO DESVÍO.
¿Y QUÉ HAY DE TI? ¿QUÉ ESTÁ PASANDO EN LA MANCOMUNIDAD?
¿POR QUÉ ESTÁS AQUÍ?
LAS COSAS SE ESTÁN PONIENDO FEAS POR ALLÍ. HAY UN MONTÓN DE LUCHAS INTERNAS ENTRE EL PUEBLO.
ASÍ QUE ME FUI.
¿QUÉ QUIERES DECIR? ¿ESTÁN TODOS BIEN-- HAY GENTE HERIDA?
¿CÓMO PUDISTE IRTE SIN MÁS?
¿CÓMO PODÍA *QUEDARME?*
UNA COSA QUE HE APRENDIDO ES QUE LA GENTE ES PELIGROSA--YA LO SABÍA DESDE ANTES. CUANDO ME TROPECÉ CON TU GENTE EN PITTSBURGH, LLEVABA SOLA MUCHO TIEMPO.
DIABLOS, ESTABA *DESESPERADA...* PERO ESTAR EN LA MANCOMUNIDAD...
ME LO RECORDÓ. LA GENTE Y YO... NO COMBINAMOS. ESTOY MUCHO MEJOR *SOLA.*

NO, NO LO ESTÁS. NADIE LO ESTÁ.
¿CREES QUE ERES UNA TIPA SOLITARIA Y DURA? ESA ES UNA IDEA QUE MOLA Y TODO ESO... PERO ES UNA JODIDA ESTUPIDEZ.
¿ENTONCES POR QUÉ NOS SALVASTE? NO TENÍAS POR QUÉ VOLVER. ARRIESGASTE TU VIDA... POR NOSOTROS. ESO DEJA CLARO CUÁNTO NO DESEAS ESTAR SOLA EN TU INTERIOR.
LA GENTE ES BUENA PARA TI... Y TÚ ERES BUENA PARA LOS DEMÁS.
NO TENÍAS QUE SOLTAR TACOS.
YA SE HAN DISPERSADO BASTANTE--VÁMONOS YA PARA PODER ALCANZAR A AARON Y LOS DEMÁS.
¿VENDRÁS CON NOSO-TROS?
VALE.
SÍ.

HA PASADO MUCHO DESDE QUE NOS ENCARGAMOS DE UNA MANADA *TAN* GRANDE...
REALMENTE HACE QUE FLUYA LA SANGRE POR LAS VENAS.
SÍ--Y YA HE TENIDO **SUFICIENTE** DE ESO. VOLVAMOS A LA CARRETERA-- REUNÁMONOS CON JESÚS Y CARL.

¡SHUKK!
¿SABES? SOLÍA DESEAR PASAR TODO UN *DÍA* SIN TENER QUE ACABAR SALVAJEMENTE CON ALGUIEN QUE SOLÍA ESTAR VIVO.
FINALMENTE, TUVE UN DÍA LIBRE, Y ENTONCES LO QUE QUISE FUE UNA SEMANA *ENTERA.* AHORA... SUSPIRO POR UN MES COMPLETO SIN MATAR.
SÓLO SOY *CODICIOSA,* SUPONGO.
YO HE TENIDO TODO UN MES.
Y UN AÑO, EN REALIDAD.
ESPERO QUE LLEGUEMOS A UN PUNTO DONDE TENGA EL RESTO DE MI VIDA ANTE MÍ... Y NO QUEDE NINGÚN CAMINANTE QUE MATAR.
PERO POR AHORA...
QUÉDATE ATRÁS, DESCANSA UN POCO.
¡¡SVAASH!!
¡SHUKK!

NO HAS DEJADO NINGUNO PARA NOSOTROS.
SUPUSE QUE YA HABRÍAS TENIDO BASTANTES.
SUBE AQUÍ, GUAPETÓN.
VAMOS-- INTENTEMOS RECUPERAR ALGO DEL TIEMPO PERDIDO.
¿DESVIARON LA MANADA LEJOS DE LA MANCOMUNIDAD?
LLEVÓ ALGÚN TIEMPO-- PERO *SÍ*.
LO MEJOR QUE PUDIMOS HACER FUE ENVIARLA HACIA ESE DEPÓSITO DE TRENES ABANDONADO DONDE LES VIMOS LA PRIMERA VEZ.
ESO DEBERÍA ESTAR LO BASTANTE LEJOS.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Am I surprised at the outpouring for Dwight? Sure. Absolutely. Seems like the only dry eye was Dwight's crusty left one. I feel like I have a pretty good pulse on fan favorites, and then you folks surprise the hell out of me. Did you really love him, or do you just love giving us grief? All that I know for sure is that his death didn't solve much, and the Commonwealth is plummeting on the "Places I'd Enjoy Living in the Apocalypse" power rankings. Let's squeeze out a couple eye drops in remembrance of the dead, one last time.

Dwight was always a favorite of mine, but I, like Sean, have been very surprised by the outrage over his death. I guess we're doing our jobs right, after all? I'm always sorry if a death in this story upsets you... but that is the price of admission here, to a certain extent. ANYWAY... let's go ahead and dive into the mail.

I can't wait until we get all the letters about Eugene...

———————————

We've lost so many people this year. Stephen Hawking, Jahseh "XXXTentacion" Onfroy, Steve Ditko, Aretha Franklin, Scott Wilson, Stan Lee, and Stephen Hillenburg are just a small fraction of the notable people that we've lost. Some were due to age, while others were in cold blood or an illness that took them too early. Needless to say, 2018 has been a shitty year. X had so much potential in his life before he was killed at age 20, and Hillenburg left a legacy of the series that is Spongebob Squarepants that gave me the interest in drawing at age 8 and later led to my fascination in comics by reading The Walking Dead by 9 and aspiring to become a comic artist by 11.

Just when I had the ever-so-shrinking hope for the rest of 2018 and looking forward to reading the newest issue of my #1 comic series of the past 7-8 years, another legendary figure in history is lost this year: Dwight. One of my absolute favourite characters, besides Andrea (whom we lost in 2017), is gone. Just like that.

Doesn't matter who your new favorite is. Dead in 2019. BET.

Heh.

To be honest, I'm very disappointed in the your development of Dwight for the past year and a half. I really hope there's some valid justification in his send off. I was hoping he'd be one of the few lucky characters that got to surpass 100 issues from his initial appearance. Hell, you were going to KILL Negan before Dwight! That's insane to think. I thought of Dwight as a really good friend of Rick's. His right hand man, if you will. Now he's just lost another friend. :(

I cannot believe you done this to me, Kirkman. I want to cry.

See you in 2019, unless 2018 takes me away too,
Andy Gasal
OG+ Walker
Vermont, USA

Well... he ALMOST lasted 100 issues...

———————————

KIRKMAN!

What is wrong with you? How the hell can you kill off the single best written character in your series like this?! The leader of the Militia, formerly a badass member of the Saviors... goes out with a bullet. Honestly, as much of a fan I am, this is first time where I don't care what happens next issue or next volume. You've truly killed my interest for the series, but I'll still be reading since I've stayed this long.

With that, I will also say this: PLEASE kill Michonne now. But first I want Laura to kill her kid, then her, just so she feels the pain. Some poetic justice of being shot in the head by Rick would be nice. She better die within the next 14 issues, by the time Issue 200 is out. Hell, bring back The Whisperers and put her head on a stick for all I care.

Goodbye Kirkman, and thanks for killing the person that got me into this damn comic,

Drake from Indiana

Like I said, strong feelings were evoked.

Kill Michonne? That's a crazy idea... but... maaaaaybe...

———————————

Hey Kirkman

I just wanted to talk about the Complexity of Carl and Sophia's relationship. Sophia and Carl truly grew up together, and they had a very close friendship as kids and still do. Just, you keep teasing in each issue their true feelings for each other.

I don't think it's meant to be teasing, just... it's complicated. You can't undervalue long-term relationships in this world, where trust often equals survival. Carl seems awfully sweet on Lydia for the moment, and I don't see that changing... unless we murk her next.

In issue 172, Sophia mentioned that she misses being with Carl, and He confesses that he misses being with her to, but he doesn't want to hurt Lydia. Then in issue 185 Sophia talks about how she wants to lose her virginity to someone, Carl tells her about a few guys that like her but she doesn't want them. Does she possibly want to lose it to the one boy she's cared about for over 4 years? When we see her with Josh, Carl's encouraging her to maybe bond with him, but she looked fairly uncomfortable in my opinion.

Really what I'm saying is, Are there still lingering feeling between them, or Is it just Sophia or Just Carl that still loves the other in that type of way? Their relationship, Friendship or Couple, will always be my favorite in the series because of how unique and developed the two of them are.

Have a wonderful Week/Weekend!

Jaime
Minnesota, USA

Ps. Thank you for putting Sophia back in the series as a sort of main character!

Was she ever out of the comic?

As to their relationship... whatever true feelings the two of them hold for each other, you're just going to have to wait and see. Although, I think it's clear that they are very close and care very deeply for each other.

____

Geezus fucking Christ! You fucks made Rick kill Dwight because Michonne put them all into a Kobayashi Maru. I'm not gonna lie, my interest in TWD was waning a bit and I decided to stick it out until this arc to see what developed only out of fierce loyalty to my favorite comic of all time. I'm a begging the guy at my lcs to let me smell TWD on Tuesdays generally. Enough bullshit, I love it and fuck you, Kirkman. You've done it again and again and again in this book. I say fuck you because you're the best at keeping me guessing and shocking the fuck outta me. I'm serious. Bravo. Glenn, Abe, Alpha, Dale, and Dwight all hit the gut and the brain like a brick of shit on a white sheet strapped to a wall. I'm a 39 year-old Mississippi man and I gasped like a shocked toddler first pissing on an electric fence again. The deaths are shocking. But, the tension between Rick and Michonne was pitch perfect and long overdue. This ain't no fairytale. Finding her daughter made her afraid again for the first time in ages. Fear is kryptonite to good people. Goddamn, if I don't see a hotly contested election coming up in the future. Well, as soon as someone assassinates Pamela. My money's on Mercer. He's gonna back Rick. Plot twist extra, Michonne's own blood stumps for Rick too. I may be carrying on in a flight of fancy, but fuck it. I can't see Rick and Michonne having a sword fight duel at high noon or another war. We're entering the political age of TWD. From Rapist Pig Governor to Rick Governor. Full fucking political circle. I doubt I'm even close to your plot. Oh yeah, great art. I'm not trying to downplay the art. It's just the plotting and writing overshadowed it this month. Both are always a feast. That plodding slow burn paid dividends.

P.S. I was saying fuck long before Batman Jr. came along. But, fuck it if he didn't force me to upgrade my fuck game.

Timothy Dunaway

Timothy—you win the Old School Letter Hack of the month non-award. This sort of well-meaning vulgarity used to fill the inbox, and I'm not one to get nostalgic because, again, I have no feelings—but good job by you.

Glad to hear the slow burn paid off for you. I know it can be frustrating at times, but y'know... these stories don't come together if the stories aren't put together just right.

____

Hello Mr. Kirkman,

Well, you've done it again. One of your best characters is dead. While it is a bummer, I think Dwight had a pretty solid arc and this was probably his time to go. However some of the pacing these past two volumes has really confused me and I hope you have some answers.

Since Michonne has arrived at the Commonwealth she's risen up to be a lawyer on a huge case, had the trial, been on vacation, come back. How long has it been? Why is Magna acting like Rick just left when it's probably been like a month? I still don't know what Oceanside is and why William from

the Kingdom was supposed to be important? Nit-picks aside, I've really enjoyed this Commonwealth arc so far and am excited to see where it goes. Keep up the good work!

P.S. It's been way too long since we've seen winter in this book (Volume 15)

Cal Gunderson
Cincinnati, OH

WINTER IS NOT COMING.

Michonne has been in the Commonwealth for many months at this point... it takes at least a week or so to get to, so there's a lot of time passing between pages here and there. Sorry it's not completely clear, but I feel like it would be tedious to stop and point out when time is passing.

Oceanside is the fishing community where Michonne served on the boat for a while when she was absent from this book after the time jump in issue #127.

____

Dear Letter Hacks

Wow! I don't think I realized how much I truly liked Dwight as a character until I saw him die.

That may be the most logical response we've received this month.

I'm a bit bummed about it honestly, but thankful that I've been able to go on this journey with Rick, Carl, Dwight, Robert & Charlie. As always, this title is consistently surprising and entertaining and a joy to read. It is simultaneously a wonderful and horrifying ride, and truly the highlight of my monthly comics reading experience.

Sincerely,
Ken Case
Planet Earth

P.S. I wonder how Negan is going to feel about this. My guess is he'll have some choice words.

I bet he will...

____

Dear TWD Crew,

Yet again, issue #186 was a hit! Two amazing covers and the story kept me on edge from start to finish!

So is it safe to assume there are two 'sides' in the Commonwealth? One that goes with the status quo and one possible faction that is potentially planning a coup? Elodie definitely seemed as surprised as I was to find out that the sheep-like citizens of the Commonwealth may not have the wool pulled over their eyes like we think they do! I look forward to seeing this develop in the future but, alas, it will be without poor old Dwighty-boy. But more on that in a second...

So is it possible that all this behind-the-scenes drama in the city is building to a conflict around the time issue #200 hits? It is an anniversary issue so I would be lying if I didn't say I was super anxious/excited/like a kid on Christmas morn with anticipation over what may be in store for that one! I can't believe there are only 13 more issues before the next major milestone in The Walking Dead universe!

#200 definitely would be a good place for something HUGE to happen. But so would #189, #190, #191, #192, #193, #194, #195, #196, #197, #198 and #199.

I think the point Sean is trying to make here... is that you may not have to wait until issue #200 for a major conflict to hit.

R.I.P. Dwight! I'm sad to see him go but loose cannons are at risk of unplanned explosions and Rick apparently thought that it was time for Dwight to be permanently benched...and while I did see it coming I didn't see it happening so suddenly. It definitely was a huge surprise to me!

Lastly...can I say I would have loved to see the scene where Mercer took out the rest of the walkers on his own? Please keep him around for a while...we need a good metal hatchet-wielding soldier to keep the others safe. That part of the issue reminded me of way back in the early days of the comic when Tyreese was trapped in the prison gym and no one thought he had a chance to survive...and yet he came out unscathed. Mercer quite simply is an awesomely cool character...and I can't wait to see more of him in the stories to come!

See, I can see how folks would get attached to Mercer. Like Andy Gasal. Andy Gasal probably has Mercer's pic as his screensaver already, and then when we kill him—Mercer, not Andy—he'll have to change it to someone else.

Anyway, thank you all again for yet another incredible issue and I am so excited for the next major turning point in the Commonwealth storyline! Whether it be war (via katana or cupcakes) I'm more than ready to be at my LCS on that upcoming Wednesday in the not too far off future to get my copies. #TWDFANFORLIFE

Sincerely,
Ryan N. Ray
Lexington, KY

Lexington, Kentucky represent!!

(facepalm)

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Mr. Kirkman, et al-

Well, I guess you get what you ask for. I requested positive change without a war and you went and shot Dwight. I appreciate what Mr. Mackiewicz said about him never seeming happy and his death being merciful. I am sad to see him go and not get a chance at some kind of true reconciliation, but I think Mr. Mackiewicz's assessment was spot on.

That said, Mr. Kirkman, will you PLEASE give me some insight into why Rick made the decision he did to shoot Dwight? It seemed almost out of character for him. Rick certainly has not hesitated to do what he has felt was right, even if it was difficult or unpopular, but he has always struck me as someone who has consistently acted deliberately and thoughtfully. This decision seemed so quick--no standoff, no attempt to talk Dwight down or defuse the situation. In fact, he doesn't say a WORD from the moment Pam enters the room. The look on his face the whole time is almost one of shock, right up to the point where he pulls the trigger (that whole scene is incredibly illustrated, as usual, by Mr. Adlard). What on earth would cause Rick to make such a snap judgment, especially about someone whose opinion he respected at least enough to give him pause?

Bewildered in Rochester, NY,
Jason

Dwight had Rick at gunpoint recently over the death of Sherry. So he knew him to be a loose cannon who had been dealing with a lot recently. But he was working through it. He'd been urging Rick to basically back him against the Commonwealth in a bid to take over. Rick knew his goals. And he had Governor Milton at gunpoint... he knew Dwight could pull the trigger at any moment.

Michonne and Rick in a room with Dwight who just killed Governor Milton? Rick doesn't know if he or Michonne get out of the Commonwealth alive... and he definitely knows that leads to a war of some kind. MANY, MANY people die... unless he kills Dwight.

Rick had no choice. That's why he had to act so quickly.

____

Whooooo-Hooooo!

It's about fucking time! You go Rick! So long, Dwight, you piece of shit! Don't let the door to comic book hell hit you in the ass on the way in (or do let it hit you. Who cares?)

RIP Abraham.

Rob Shelor
Roanoke VA

Rob gets it.

Oh yeah, and I hope everyone involved in the making of the Walking Dead (comics, TV, etc.) has a wonderful holiday season.

Charlie, you rock!

Charlie DOES rock!

____

Dear Mr. Kirkman and team,

I hope Dwight can rest peacefully now. I always admired his ability AND reluctance to lead. I am feeling sorry for Laura. The dynamic she shared with him has been a favorite part of this book recently. As for Rick, simply shocked. Can't recall him ever having to kill one of his own. I'm glad he sees the new world as something to shape, not be taken over. I am scared for Michonne, and am very much enjoying Pamela's true turn as the villain. More Mercer! Wonderful issue. Keep it coming.

David Martz
Pottstown, PA

Laura kept Dwight in check before, but now that she's without him, sure looks like she's carrying on his legacy.

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We will see you next month, when Eugene and Stephanie find themselves in one hell of a predicament.

Also, if you like fun, pop action comics, ASSASSIN NATION debuts in March! You mix the brilliance of two-time Eisner winner Erica Henderson (*The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl*) with the dementedness of Kyle Starks (*Rick & Morty, Sexcastle*) and you get 20 top assassins gathered in the same building to protect the World's Former Greatest Hitman. That's a lot of egos in one place, and guns will go off! Check out this irresistible preview on the following pages! Our first new series of the year may be our most fun yet!

-Sean Mackiewicz

I am extremely excited for you all to get a look at ASSASSIN NATION! It's a great book by a great team. You'll love it!

See you all back here next month!

-Robert Kirkman

THE WALKING DEAD

AT-ZOMBIEFACTORY